

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of this Amendment.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9 and 11-13 are cancelled by this Amendment.

Claims 16-26 are added.

Claim 16

New claim 16 includes all of the limitations of cancelled claim 1. That includes the limitation of reacting a polymer in homogeneous phase.

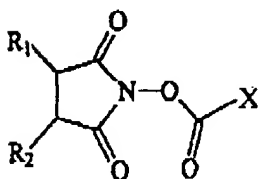
The cited reference, U.S. Patent 4,843,122 to Stavrianopolos, does not disclose or suggest that a polymer be reacted, as claimed, in homogeneous phase. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 17-23

New claims 17-23 depend from claim 16. The limitations that they add to claim 16 distinguish the invention further from the prior art. Claims 17-23 are therefore also patentable.

Claim 24

New claim 24 recites reacting a polymer in homogeneous phase with an activating reagent having the structure



The cited reference does not suggest reacting a polymer in homogeneous phase. Further, the reference does not suggest using the claimed activating reagent. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 25-26

New claims 25-26 depend from claim 24. The limitations that they add to claim 24 distinguish the invention further from the prior art. Claims 25-26 are therefore also patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now be in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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